

7. Descriptions of three new Species of Australian Birds.

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Family PSITTACIDÆ.

1. APROSMICTUS INSIGNISSIMUS, Gould, P. Z. S. 1874, p. 499.

Head emerald-green, excepting the centre of the crown and a patch on the nape, these parts being scarlet, the green forming a narrow frontal line between the nostrils and the crown; round the hind neck a narrow collar of emerald-green; back, including the mantle and scapulars, deep grass-green, each feather obscurely edged with darker colour; lower back and rump shining blue; upper tail-coverts bright grass-green; all the tail-feathers above deep grass-green, with indistinct narrow bars of darker colour on every one of them; the underside of the tail uniform purplish black; wings green, with a broad longitudinal patch of yellow; many of these feathers edged with scarlet, this mark being very distinct and similar to that seen in the male of *Ptistes*; under wing-coverts greenish blue; inner lining of quills purplish black, like the lower surface of the tail; under surface of body scarlet, with dashes of bright green on the flanks; under tail-coverts green, fringed with scarlet, both mandibles of the bill bright red as in *Ptistes*, the tips lighter; legs blackish. Total length $15\frac{1}{2}$ inches, wing 9, tail $7\frac{3}{4}$, tarsus $\frac{7}{8}$.

Hab. Queensland.

At the meeting of this Society held on the 3rd of November 1874, Dr. Sclater exhibited a painting of a new Parrot from Queensland on my behalf, as I was too unwell to attend the meeting: for this bird I proposed the name of *Aprosmictus insignissimus*. Since then, through the kindness of the authorities of the new Zoological Museum at Brisbane, I have received the actual specimen of this bird, and Dr. Sclater has again been kind enough to bring the bird before the notice of the meeting.

As before supposed, this bird is directly intermediate in form between *Aprosmictus* and *Ptistes*. In size it is still larger than the well-known King Parrakeet (*Aprosmictus scapulatus*), while in coloration it is very different, as will be seen by the above description and measurements taken from the bird itself. That the specimen was killed before it had quite completed its plumage is pretty evident from the incomplete colouring of the crown of the head and nape: in the other parts no difference is likely to occur.

I take this opportunity of returning my hearty thanks to Mr. Waller, of Brisbane, and to Mr. Coxen, of the same town, for the interest they have shown in the matter of this newly discovered bird, and especially for the opportunity they have given me of introducing it to the notice of European ornithologists.

2. CYCLOPSITTA MACCOYI, n. sp.

Male. General colour green, the face having all the fantastic

colours of the Harlequin ; on the forehead a band of bright scarlet, surrounded by cobalt, a shade of the same colour encircling the latter, narrow above, broader below ; on the cheeks, from the base of the bill to the tips of the ear-coverts, a band of scarlet like that on the forehead ; and below this is an obscure band of purplish blue, gradually fading off into the green of the neck ; flank-feathers tipped with bright lemon-yellow ; quills externally blue, the inner secondaries green, with the usual tiny patch of scarlet adjoining the back ; tail green ; under wing-coverts green, the outer ones washed with blue ; quills blackish below, diagonally crossed near the base with a yellow band. Total length $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches, wing $3\frac{3}{8}$, tail $1\frac{3}{4}$, tarsus $\frac{3}{8}$.

Female. Differs from the male in wanting the scarlet cheeks : in other respects similar.

Hab. Rockingham Bay, Queensland.

This pretty little species is quite different from all the *Cyclopsitta* known, and finds its allies in *C. coxeni* and *C. diophthalma*. It is one third less in size than *C. coxeni*, and about equal to *C. diophthalma* in dimensions ; it is, however, even more beautiful than the latter in the colours of its face.

I gladly accede to the suggestion of Mr. Waller that this species should be named after Professor M'Coy, who has done so much for Australian science.

Family MELIPHAGIDÆ.

3. PTILOTTIS FLAVOSTRIATA, sp. n.

Head and hind neck dusky blackish, with a distinct shade of olivaceous on the crown, leaving a pure black patch on each side of the occiput ; hind neck distinctly marked with triangular spots of dull white ; mantle straw-yellow, the bases to the feathers dusky brown ; scapulars brown, with large triangular whitish spots ; lower back and rump brown, with dull olive margins to the feathers ; upper tail-coverts and tail brown, paler at tip, the feathers narrowly margined with olive ; wing-coverts brown, with large triangular whitish spots as on the scapulars, the greater series dark brown, tipped with whitish and margined with whity brown ; quills dark brown, externally edged with olive and slightly tipped with whitish ; region of the eye bare and yellow ; the few feathers on the ear-coverts hoary ; cheeks dull olivaceous buff, running into a distinct tuft of bright yellow ; throat greyish white, washed with olive on the lower part ; chest olivaceous, distinctly streaked with shaft-lines of bright yellow, the breast paler, the feathers being brown with broad triangular longitudinal spots of white ; flanks and under tail-coverts light brown, washed with olive ; under wing-coverts yellowish buff ; the lower surface of the wings and tail ashy brown, with broad rufous buff margins to the inner webs. Total length $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches, bill $1\frac{1}{8}$, wing $3\frac{1}{2}$, tail 3, tarsus $\frac{1}{6}$.

Hab. Rockingham Bay.